

CITY COUNCIL  
Sunbury PA 17801  
October 10, 2016  
6:15 pm

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of the City of Sunbury was called to order with the Honorable Vice-Mayor Elizabeth R. Kremer presiding. There was a quorum with the following in attendance:

Elizabeth R. Kremer, Director of Accounts and Finance  
Richard L. Reichner, Director of Public Safety  
Dale L. Henry, Director of Public Works  
James R. Eister, Director of Parks, Recreation and Public Buildings

Other City officials in attendance:

Brianna Apfelbaum Kula, City Solicitor  
John Bakowicz, City Engineer  
Joseph Swope, Code Officer  
Michael Rhoads, Zoning Officer  
Russell Wertz, Fire Chief  
Cheryl Delsite, Administrative Assistant.

There were twenty-five (25) visitors present.

A moment of silent reflection was held prior to the beginning of the meeting.

### **MINUTES AND REPORTS**

The Minutes of 9/12/16 and 9/26/16 and available departmental reports of the Police Dept., Treasurer's Office, Controller, Health Dept. (quarterly), Fire Dept., City Engineer, Code Office, Park and Recreation Department, Park and Recreation Board, Public Works Dept., Planning Commission, Redevelopment Authority and Police Pension Board (quarterly) are in the City Clerk's office for review. Motion to accept was made by Councilman Henry. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote. Minutes will be posted at [cityofsunbury.com](http://cityofsunbury.com).

### **PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS**

Councilwoman Kremer asked for comments on agenda items and there were none.

### **REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Ms. Apfelbaum Kula announced an auction will be held on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 am for 714-716 N. 7<sup>th</sup> St. Formal advertising has been properly completed.

### **RESOLUTION/HOME GRANT**

Councilman Henry moved to pass the HOME grant Resolution to allow the city to apply for funding in the amount of \$500,000 for owner occupied home improvements with PA DCED (see attached). Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

### **SRI UPDATE**

Ms. Laurie Johnson said Late Night Shoppers is December 8<sup>th</sup>. A place for vendors to set up is needed because the location they used last year has been sold. The Biz Pitch competition is scheduled for November 12<sup>th</sup> at the Elks building. Boos and Brews is scheduled for October 22<sup>nd</sup> as a Hill Neighborhood fundraiser. Litefest decorating will begin on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> and the Santa parade is November 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **HIRE SEASONAL EMPLOYEES ICE RINK**

Councilman Eister moved to hire snack bar workers and ice rink workers for the season. Second – Reichner. Unanimous vote.

### **APPROVAL TO PAY INVOICES**

Councilwoman Kremer moved to pay the invoices reported on the voucher's payable report in the amount of \$195,847.23 from the General Fund and \$260.48 from Liquid Fuels. Second - Reichner. Unanimous vote.

### **TAX EXONERATION**

Councilwoman Kremer moved to pass the tax exoneration as requested by Statewide Tax Recovery. Second – Henry. Unanimous vote.

### **AUDIENCE COMMENT**

Mr. Kurt Karlovich: Why does the mayor cast a vote during council meetings? Councilwoman Kremer answered that is the form of government this 3<sup>rd</sup> Class City has. Mr. Karlovich said he has information showing that he does not have a vote. Ms. Apfelbaum Kula will look into it.

Ms. Regina Russell: Concern about rodents in the city increasing. Does the city do anything to help low income home owners? Councilwoman Kremer said she is not aware of anything. The home owner is responsible for their own property. If there is an issue with a neighbor's property the code office can address it. Ms. Russell said the code office is not enforcing laws for some people. One of the properties she is complaining about has 50 bags of trash in the back yard and now they are moving. She also said the bicycle shop is still running their business without parking at a residential home. Mr. Rhoads said the code office was at the property where the garbage bags were and they gave the occupants a warning and also called the owner of the property. The owner took a dumpster to the property and cleared the trash. The bike shop was approved by the Zoning Hearing Board to run a business there. Councilman Henry asked if the fence is still up and there is no parking, why isn't the code office doing something about it? Mr. Rhoads answered the fence is on hinges. The property owner opens the gate when someone is there to look at bikes and lets them park there. Ms. Julie Broschius said the alley is narrow and she does not know how vehicles navigate with a gate opening and closing. The Zoning Hearing Board approved the business in a residential district.

Mr. Gordon Lamb: Between 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> St. on Line St. there is a dumpster and a lot of garbage is being dumped there. Councilman Reichner said the property owner was contacted and told it is their responsibility if it persists. It was recommended that the receptacle be taken away. He also asked Councilwoman Kremer about comments she made about the former Celotex site. Councilwoman Kremer said the city does not own the property, the county does. The city would like someone to build a hotel at the site but to date no one has come forward to do that. Councilman Henry asked if anyone has met with the county regarding the former site and the answer is no. Councilwoman Kremer said she will call the commissioners to see if she can find anything out. Mr. Lamb said his concern is the fracking waste at that site and there is no way any buildings should be built on that land. Councilman Reichner said all the testing completed showed it was below levels for commercial buildings. The testing records are with the county and other areas were tested after the preliminary testing. Mr. Joe Bartello said a hotel is considered residential occupancy. Councilman Reichner said it is not classified as a permanent residential property if it is a hotel.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Sunbury Fire Police Halloween Parade will be held October 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

Trick or treating is Monday October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6–9 pm.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Specht, City Clerk